

402 IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST
[Acrlll]

except in his domestic life. But I have no doubt his name would appear in any military directory.
Jack. The Army Lists of the last forty years are here. These delightful records should have been my constant study.
[Rushes to bookcase and tears the books out.]
M. Generals
Mallam, Maxbohm, Magley, what ghastly names they have
—Marksby, Migsby, Mobbs, Moncrieff! Lieutenant 1840., Captain, Lieutenant-Colonel, Colonel, General 1869, Christian names, Ernest John. *[Puts book very quietly down and speaks quite calmly.]* I always told you, Gwendolen, my name was Ernest, didn't I? Well, it is Ernest after all I mean it naturally is Ernest.
Lady Bracknell Yes, I remember now that the General was called Ernest. I knew I had some particular reason for disliking the name.
Gwendolen. Ernest! My own Ernest! I felt from the first that you could have no other name!
Jack. Gwendolen, it is a terrible thing for a man'to find out suddenly that all his life he has been speaking nothing but the truth. Can you forgive me?
Gwendolen. I can. For I feel that you are sure to change.
Jack. My own one!
Chasuble. *[To Miss Prism]* Lsetitia! *[Embraces her]*
Miss Prism. *[Enthusiastically]* Frederick! At last!
Algernon. Cecily! *[Embraces her]* At last!
Jack. Gwendolen! *[Embraces her]* At last!
Lady Bracknell My nephew, you seem to be displaying signs of triviality.
Jack. On the contrary, Aunt Augusta, I've now realized for the first time in my life the vital Importance of Being Earnest.

TABLEAU

CURTAIN